

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /094 W

-----047740 260215Z /64

R 251306Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1867

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: APPEAL REJECTED FOR "GOCH STREET TERRORIST"

REF: PRETORIA 1643

1. ACCORDING TO JULY 25 PRESS REPORTS, THE APPELLATE DIVISION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUPREME COURT IN BLOEMFONTEIN HAS REFUSED LEAVE TO APPEAL IN THE CASE OF SOLOMON MAHLANGU, 22, SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE SHOOTING OF TWO WHITES IN JOHANNESBURG IN JUNE 1977. (NOTE: MAHLANGU DID NOT SHOOT OR ATTEMPT TO SHOOT EITHER OF THE WHITES WHO DIED IN THE "GOCH STREET INCIDENT;" HIS COMPANIONS DID THE SHOOTING.)

2. MAHLANGU'S ATTORNEY, ISMAEL AYOB, RECENTLY INFORMED EMBOFF THAT IN THE EVENT THAT THE APPELLATE DIVISION SHOULD REFUSE THE APPEAL, AYOB WILL CIRCULATE A MASS PETITION
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IN THE BLACK TOWNSHIPS TO TRY AND SAVE MAHLANGU'S LIFE.

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, PRESS REPORTED CREATION OF LONDON-BASED INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO SAVE MAHLANGU CALLED "SOUTHERN AFRICA: THE IMPRISONED SOCIETY" ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTED BY THE UN SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID CHAIRMAN, LESLIE HARRIMAN OF NIGERIA. JULY 20 JOHANNESBURG

STAR EDITORIAL CALLED EFFORT BY "BRITISH RADICALS" MISGUIDED
IN THAT MAHLANGU WAS INVOLVED IN "COLD-BLOODED, PREMEDITATED
KILLING. TO MAKE A POLITICAL ISSUE OF IT IS PURE CANT."

4. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF PERSISTENT POLICE ACTION AGAINST
ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING OR APPEARING TO
PARTICIPATE IN A BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS IDEA, IT WILL BE
SURPRISING IF AYOB'S PETITION EFFORT GETS OFF THE GROUND.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRORISM
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF
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Declassified/Released
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